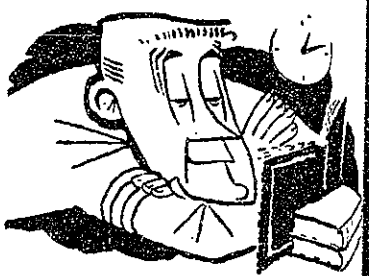


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The Tech

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE UNDERGRADUATES OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

VOL. LXXVI NO. 28

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1956

GRATIS

925 Freshmen Arrive At Institute, Flood Housing

Convocation Starts Frosh Weekend

The 1956 Freshman Weekend program got under way Thursday morning with a class convocation in Kresge Auditorium with President J. R. Killian as featured speaker.

Other speakers on the program included Professor John Rule, beginning his first year as Dean of Students and Dr. Charles N. Satterfield, beginning his first term as chairman of the faculty Freshman Advisory Council.

Richard L. Balch, director of athletics; Dr. John W. Chamberlain, associate medical director; and Malcolm M. Jones '57 of Boston, president of the Undergraduate Association, also addressed the new students during the program.

President Killian set the mood, stating, "There has never been a time when more was expected of scientists and engineers, when high quality ones were in greater demand, and when there was such a wide range of important work for them to accomplish."

Dr. Killian emphasized further that "science and engineering are bringing about explosive changes in our way of life."

"In their discoveries and advances they move from one triumph to another," Dr. Killian said, "and the scientist, engineer, manager, and architect in consequence become of greater importance to the economy, the health, the safety, and the advancement of the nation."

"At the same time that their responsibilities thus become greater," he added, "the requirements which rest upon them become more severe."

"Society and the advancing complexity of their work exacts of them increasingly greater competence, and penetration of their specialty, and breadth of outlook."

The M.I.T. president stressed the advantages of extra-curricular activities.

"In activities as well as in academic work," he said, "M.I.T.'s aim is to develop self-starting, self-directing, self-reliant individuals, each seeking for himself some accomplishment of distinction."

Other freshman events scheduled for Thursday and Friday included informal group meetings, athletic programs, and a tea for women students held at the dean's house. Thursday evening each entering student was the guest of his faculty adviser at dinner.

(Continued on page 3)



James R. Killian, Jr. '26

The Tech

Opportunity For All

Independent of administration control and student government supervision, *The Tech* is the oldest and the largest activity on the Institute campus. Established in 1881, *The Tech* has been serving the varied Institute community for seventy-five years. Unsubsidized, the financial operations of the newspaper are the third most extensive—after the administration—financed Athletic Association and Finance Committee. Business operations are handled in their entirety by undergraduate business staffs.

Activities of the paper are as diverse as those of the many-faceted Institute campus. Besides the normal operations of a newspaper and a business, *The Tech* demands interested and capable specialists to cover activities which range from athletics to music and drama to complex research.

Occupying a unique position—as the only campus wide newspaper—*The Tech* has a definite responsibility. It has as well a dramatic and powerful influence on all affairs affecting undergraduate life.

There are opportunities for freshmen in all of the paper's staffs. Previous experience, although helpful, is far from a prerequisite to success on *The Tech*. Interest in any phase of Institute activity is the only requirement. Freshmen are invited to visit the Midway booth now or the newspaper office—Walker Memorial 020—any Sunday or Wednesday night.

500 Attend Rush; Men On Cots Again

Over five hundred Freshmen now know why the hectic five days between last Saturday and Wednesday are christened as Rush Week. More than half of these new students are wearing pledge pins from the twenty-seven MIT fraternities, and even more are expected to pledge before registration day.

Rush Week festivities were opened last Friday evening with the pre-Rush Week meeting in Kresge Auditorium; a meeting designed to introduce prospective fraternity men to Rushing, and to fraternities in general. Alan Borstien '57 was MC, introducing upperclassmen active in different phases of MIT life who stressed the fraternity interest and participation in every campus activity. Included were Mal Jones '57, Undergraduate Association President; Bruce Blanchard '57, president of the Athletic Association; and Mike Brenner '57, president of the Interfraternity Conference. Following advice as to the rules and mechanics of Rushing, Dean Fassett gave an inspiring speech. The meeting was closed after a short question and answer period with the questions supplied by the audience and the answers coming from those on the speaking platform.

Almost all the chapters acquired between eight and fifteen pledges, and most seemed satisfied that Rush Week was a success. Delta Kappa Epsilon came through with the largest pledge class, which numbered seventeen. Such a large class was needed by this house because of a small class last year, which left only fourteen actives returning. At the other extreme, Delta Upsilon fell short of its mark by about three men, as they pledged only six. Lower attendance at smokers and other functions was cited as one possible reason for the small pledge class, which bears out the fact that total attendance was down.

What the class of 1960 lacks in numbers it seems to have made up by quality. As of two weeks ago of the 897 freshmen from this country (excluding transfer students) a great many participated in extracurricular activities in high school. To cite a few examples: 11.4% were class officers; 46% were club officers; 23.5% were members of varsity teams; and 59% had summer jobs.

Rushing attendance was down by about thirty from last year, and this has resulted in less pledging. This means that the hous-

(Continued on page 4)

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OGRAM

3 Heavyweight Crews Lose At Compton Cup In Year's Last Races

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EDITORIAL

A Greeting

The bustle of freshman weekend and rush week have come almost to an end; and, in a few days, the nine hundred entering freshmen will be attending their first classes. To them—welcome and a word of caution.

They have been subjected to testing, counseling, processing and speeches. They have filled out forms, read slick catalogues and brochures, been approached by fraternity men and salesmen, activity men and athletic men. They have been welcomed again and again and received advice on where to live, where to eat, where to go and what to do. During this confusing time, one thing has been neglected—education. The nine hundred freshmen came to MIT for the the finest technical education available.

At the end of one year—or four—many of the same nine hundred will feel cheated, will feel that *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune* and *This Is MIT* lied, will feel that the education they received was second-rate and unsatisfactory. They will be partly right.

Four years of secondary school accustomed them to the teaching of trained and interested pedagogues. Four weeks of Institute training, of exposure to engineers and scientists—experts in their fields and amateur teachers—as instructors will leave them disappointed—in the quality of the teaching and the confusion of their work. Seldom does either have direction, organization or meaning. Many will take advantage of the Institute's liberal attitude toward class attendance and homework; others will grind away painfully—both suffer.

Institute undergraduate education is the finest, but it is far from ideal. All too often the instructors have but little interest in teaching and less ability. It is not altogether their fault; advancement is the reward of research not teaching. All too often the courses are poorly organized and without meaning. Institute education—like other American technical institutions—is run on a rigid and archaic system. Too many courses are required—but a gradual relaxation is under way. Unnecessary lectures are given, inadequate texts used. Changes have been made, are being made.

The nine hundred entering freshmen will get full value for their four years if they take *Time*, *Life*, *Fortune*, and *This Is MIT* with a salt shaker and face the years ahead with eyes more open than starry.

The Tech

VOL. LXXVI Saturday, Sept. 15, 1956 No. 28

JOHN A. FRIEDMAN '57 ROBERT G. BRIDGHAM '57
Editor Business Manager

The Tech is published every Tuesday and Friday during the college year, except during college vacations. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Boston, Massachusetts.

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Counseling Program Intensified For New Frosh

This year, the entering freshman should have little trouble acquainting himself with Tech, for assistance is being offered from all directions. The faculty, under the Freshman Advisory Council, and the students, under the Freshman Coordinating Committee, are doing all possible to help him with his problems.

The Freshman Advisory Council, now in its fifth year of operation, is concerned largely with the educational effectiveness of the Institute. Members of the FAC are delegated with the responsibility for aiding the freshman in the transition from the academic situation of high school to the more demanding life at MIT. Nevertheless, the members of the FAC do realize that this cannot be completely divorced from the other aspects of the student's development; as a result, the advisors are often consulted on academic and personal problems alike.

The incoming frosh are divided into

35 sections of approximately 28 students each. Each section in turn is divided into two groups, with an advisor assigned to each. The two groups will have different areas of interest corresponding to the interests of the advisors. Further, the two advisors and five or six instructors will constitute a small group of the faculty responsible for the education of the section.

In a memorandum to the faculty advisors, Charles Satterfield, Chairman of the FAC, summed up its purpose; "Our responsibility is to the entire freshman class—a mediocre performance by a boy of outstanding promise is more important than the failure of a boy who has below-average potentialities. Basically, our aim should be the realization by each freshman of his own potentialities, at whatever level these might be."

Last Wednesday evening, a dinner, attended by over 100 fraternity pledge trainers and dormitory student counselors, was

held by the Freshman Coordinating Committee, and the action being taken was discussed.

In the dorms, lounge parties have been held to introduce the residents to their student counselors. There are approximately 100 of these counselors, each with three or four advisees. The newly formed Commuter Council met Wednesday night to discuss their future plans with the frosh commuters. The Pledge Training Committee of IFC is also working in conjunction with the FCC to plan the various aspects of pledge training.

Frosh Testing Program Inaugurated Wednesday

A new testing program was introduced to the freshman this past Wednesday as part of an experiment being run by the College Entrance Examination Board. The program consisted of a two hour exam on the physical sciences which was followed by tests in the social sciences and humanities today. The three exams will help the College Board to reevaluate their present college entrance testing program.

The present program, given to high school seniors applying to member colleges, consists of an aptitude test and three achievement tests in any high school subjects chosen by the students. These latter tests have been subject to criticism for the past few years. The opinion of the College Board Examiners is that the present achievement tests are too specialized and restricted in their matter. The objective of the new tests is to replace the achievement tests with a more general program that will test the high school senior more extensively. They are not attempting to replace one achievement test with another. Rather, they are designing the new tests to show how much the high school senior has learned in accordance with his ability.

The specific purpose of this week's tests is to aid the College Board in developing the tests. The tests will be evaluated by them and the results will remain their exclusive property. At the end of the scholastic year the results of the tests and of the year's work of each student will be compared. The results will not be made public and are given only for the purpose of developing new college entrance exams.

FRESHMAN WEEKEND (Continued from page 1)

Freshmen also met in small groups with their student advisers. This second advisory group worked under the direction of the freshman coordinating committee, a sub-committee of the Institute Committee. Under this program, one senior will take advisory responsibilities for approximately ten freshmen.

Freshman activities will be concluded with a reception to be held from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday by President and Mrs. Killian for the new students and their parents.

The Managing Board

of

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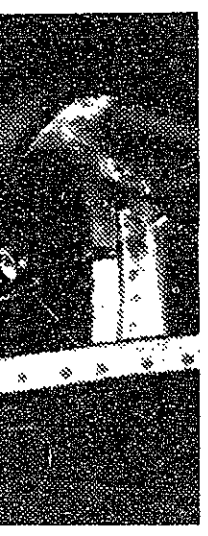
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GRAM

3 Heavyweight Crews
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Fall Housing Squeeze
A Perennial Problem



Walker Memorial—cots are the answer to the "Big Squeeze"

(Continued from page 1)

ing situation, already acute, has been caught in the undertow; and at the present time about fifty freshmen are without room assignments. Not only freshmen are affected, for the upperclassmen have a waiting list for the dorms which has over one hundred names on it. Every year a few cancellations come in on registration day, and in the past this number has varied between ten and forty. If the latter number of cancellations comes through, only a few freshmen will be without dorm facilities. For the present surge tanks have been set up in the Walker Gym, in the form of roll-in cots, and it is hoped that this temporary setup will be sufficient to tide things over at least until registration day. However, it is almost certain that many of the eight hundred students who applied for dormitory space will have to go apartment hunting in the near future.

Another definite possibility for the alleviation of the problem stems from the fact that many fraternities are still short of their house capacity. If pledging continues at an above average pace, chances are that all freshmen may be provided with dormitory rooms.

Dean Fassett, who has been carrying the heavy load of solving housing problems, has seen quite a bit of the Freshman Class, and has this compliment to pay them: "The high scholastic standing of the class of '60 has been matched by its courtesy and good humor in a difficult time. If 1960 will maintain its movement in the direction shown, it will most certainly have a successful four years at MIT."

BRILLAT-SAVARIN
The initial meeting of La Societe de Brillat-Savarin, scheduled for this weekend has been postponed. The members will convene at a date to be announced.

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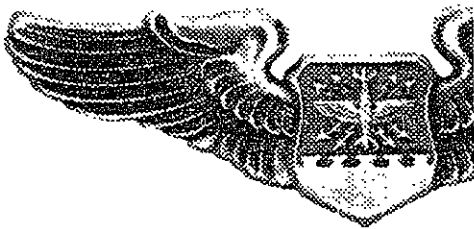
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GRAM

Beaver Barks

Participation, Competition Keynote Athletics

By Paul Jay Goldin

The many contributions made to science and industry by the Institute and its traditionally high academic standards have all but obscured its part as pioneer in intercollegiate sport. You may have heard of the scientific achievements and of the academic tradition but it is extremely unlikely that you know that MIT introduced intercollegiate sailing competition or was one of the first to recognize the fast growing though little known sport of weight-lifting.

Because of the lack of big-time Tech major sport teams, the athletic program has received little notice. It is however, one of the most complete to be found in any university, large or small. The program includes every sport, major or minor, with the single exception of football. Participation in varsity, freshman and j.v. athletics is perhaps the most complete anywhere. Almost one-third of the undergraduate body has at one time or another participated in the intercollegiate program.

No "Minor" Sports

Before I mentioned major and minor sports, let me correct myself. At the Institute there are no minor sports, all sports are treated equally. This is perhaps the essence of the MIT attitude.

Field Day Highlight Of Fall Season; Features Five Sports, Glove Fight



Traditionally the climax of freshman-sophomore rivalry at MIT, Field Day will come this year on October 27. In the past Field Day was the highlight of the athletic season, but with the elimination of hazing and the almost certain death of the colorful purple shaft, the place and importance of the day are somewhat in doubt. Last year's contest, one of the hardest fought in recent years, went to the sophs by a 23-0 count, first shutout since 1933. In recent years the upper classmen have dominated the event, as the last frosh victory was in 1950. With the exception of last year, however, almost all were decided by the glove fight.

Besides the glove fight, last remnant of rivalry in the past style, Field Day officially consists of five athletic events. First event on the card is the Crew Race, usually a sure point winner for the frosh who can boat four to six crews to the sophs' one. The scene then shifts to Alumni Pool, where the sophomores pull men out of the crowd, but usually get enough quality to win the two relay races. Then the Tug-of-War, Relay Race, and Football Game close out the schedule on Briggs Field. The sophs traditionally win the tug and the football game

but the relay race is a tossup.

After the dust has cleared and clothes been changed, the classes then take the field for the glove fight. The freshmen congregate at one end of the football field and the sophs at the other, where each man receives a glove. On the signal there is open warfare for fifteen minutes, at the end of which the gloves are counted and the winner declared.

Points are awarded for each event, three for track, swimming, crew, and tug-of-war; four for football; and six for the glove fight.

This year's contest should again be a tossup with the sophs having the advantage in knowledge and experience but the freshmen excelling in spirit and numbers. Elimination of hazing may prove a great disadvantage to the frosh, who will have to unite and build up their spirit without the usual friendly help from the sophomores.

Whatever the outcome, Field Day will be watched with great interest by the administration, Institute Committee, and all the students, with the turnout and enthusiasm this year having a great effect on the future of one great MIT tradition.

We like to win, we are out there not just to "participate" but to win if possible. Just as there are no minor sports, there are no minor victories. A win by the basketball team over a comparatively minor league opponent rates just as high as a win by the crew over a definitely big-league adversary.

But it is obviously impossible for a college like Tech to compete in the so-called big-time in every sport without granting special privileges to athletes and recruiting prospects. This is not the way the Institute does things. We, therefore, compete with schools in our own classes. Since the calibre of our teams varies with each sport, the calibre of our opponents varies greatly. This policy is perhaps the best possible one. If it were more generally in use the present situation of drastic overemphasis in intercollegiate sport would be virtually nonexistent. MIT has found the answer to overemphasis not in the equally undesirable complete deemphasis but in proper emphasis.

(Continued on page 6)

Eight Points Needed For Athletic Requirements

The MIT physical education program requires every student to complete a minimum of eight athletic points by the end of the sophomore year. These points can be accrued through participation in the various intercollegiate sports or by enrolling in a physical education class.

The physical education classes are regularly scheduled twice a week, wherein an instructor supervises the group in one of several different sports available through the year. These classes accomplish their designated purpose in that they afford the opportunity for competitive physical recreation without making the demands of an intercollegiate sport. Two points are given for each quarterly activity and it is possible to complete the requirement in one year.

The other method to complete the requirement is to participate in the many and diversified intercollegiate sports. There are both Freshman and Varsity teams in almost every sport one can imagine and cuts from the rosters are very infrequent. Participation in one of the Fall or Spring sports give two points and a Winter sport gives four points.

3 Heavyweight Crews Lose At Compton Cup In Year's Last Races

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Faculty, Administration On WTBS Interviews Starting Next Monday

WTBS, the MIT undergraduate radio station, is programming a series of faculty interviews this Monday night at 7:00 p.m., (640 kc on radios plugged into dormitory circuits). The recorded interviews—to be presented intermittently with music—are with key members of faculty and administration—and are designed to acquaint the student body, especially the new freshmen, both with the men holding the positions and with the positions themselves.

The program, planned over the summer, includes: Dr. Julius A. Stratton, the new Chancellor; Admiral Edward L. Cochrane, Vice-President for Industrial Relations; Dr. George Harrison, Dean of the School of Science; Dr. Richard C. Soderberg, Dean of the School of Engineering; Prof. John T. Rule, Dean of Students; Prof. Gordon S. Brown, Head of the Electrical Engineering Department; Prof. B. Alden Thresher, Director of Admissions; Dean Frederick Fassett, Associate Dean of Students; Dean Thomas Pitre, Director of Student Aid; and Mr. William Carlisle, Director of Student Employment.

The interviews will begin with the faculty member giving a brief sketch of himself and of his role with the Institute. Since most of them are "old pros", they will also comment on the future of their departments and how Tech has changed over the years.

BEAVER BARKS

(Continued from page 5)
Participation Great

The athletic program at Tech is designed to allow the fullest possible participation. Many of the sports, crew and squash, to name two do not require a great deal of previous experience. In almost all sports at the freshman level and in many at the varsity level there is no "cut" made.

The athletic facilities are excellent and are being constantly improved, witness the

new hockey rink and basketball floor. Despite the high percentage of intercollegiate participants, there is room for a great many more. All these things add up to one conclusion. Your participation in intercollegiate athletics. Although you may have never gone out for a sport before, you need not hesitate to now. A surprisingly small number of Tech varsity athletes had high school experience. Why not give it a try? The field day and fall sports program offer an excellent opportunity to start out.

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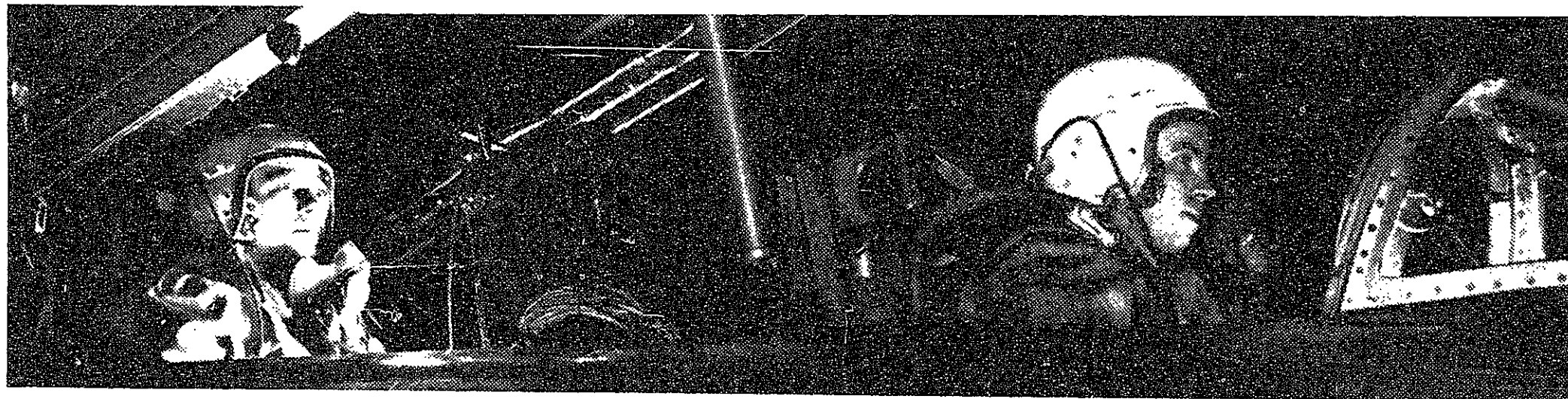
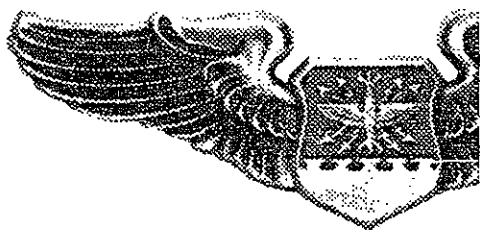
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